

October Mountain State Forest Trail Planning Workshop



DCR Public Meeting

March 4, 2015; 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
DCR West Region Headquarters

DCR Mission Statement



To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well being of all







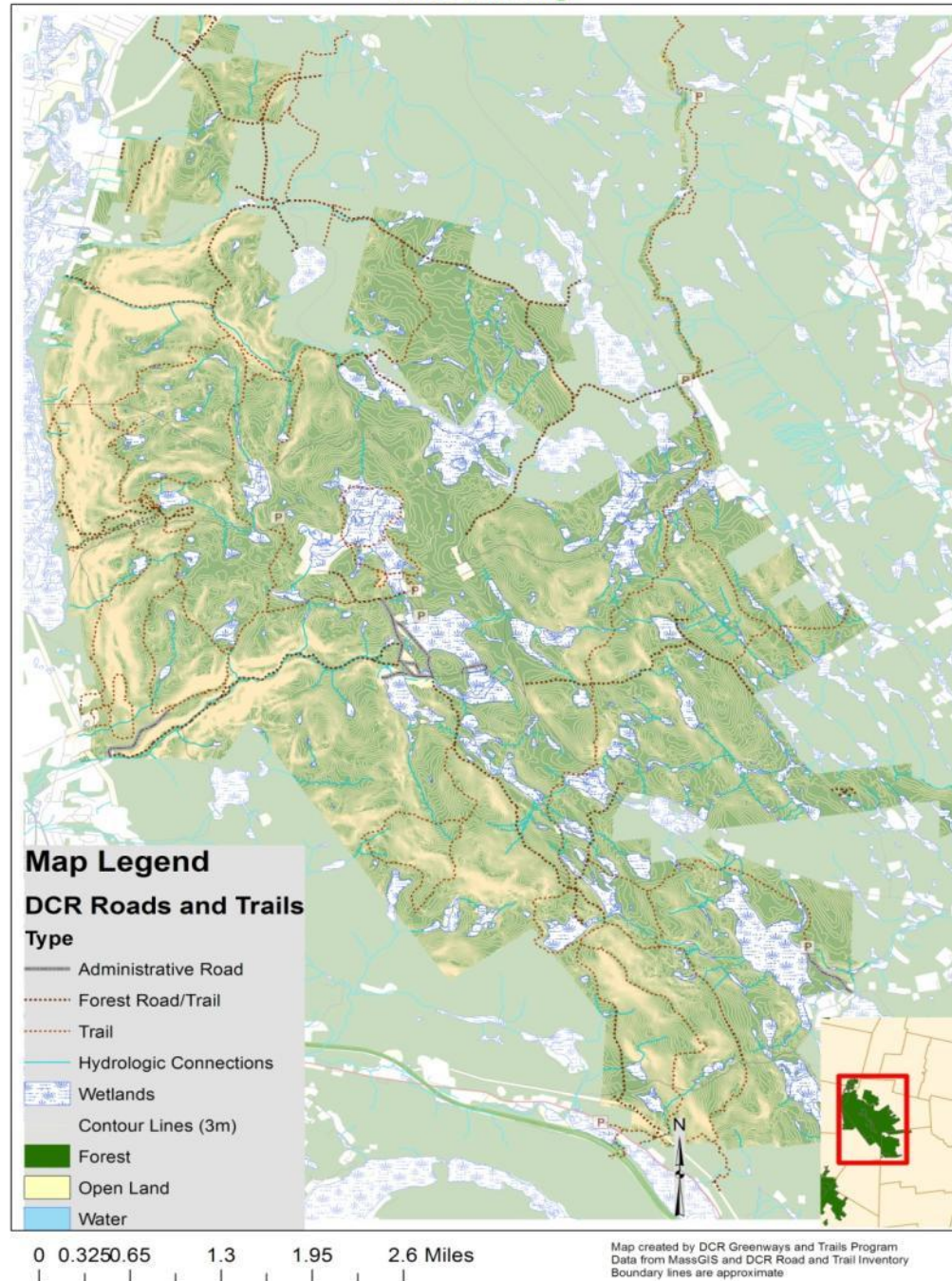
APPALACHIAN TRAIL ↑



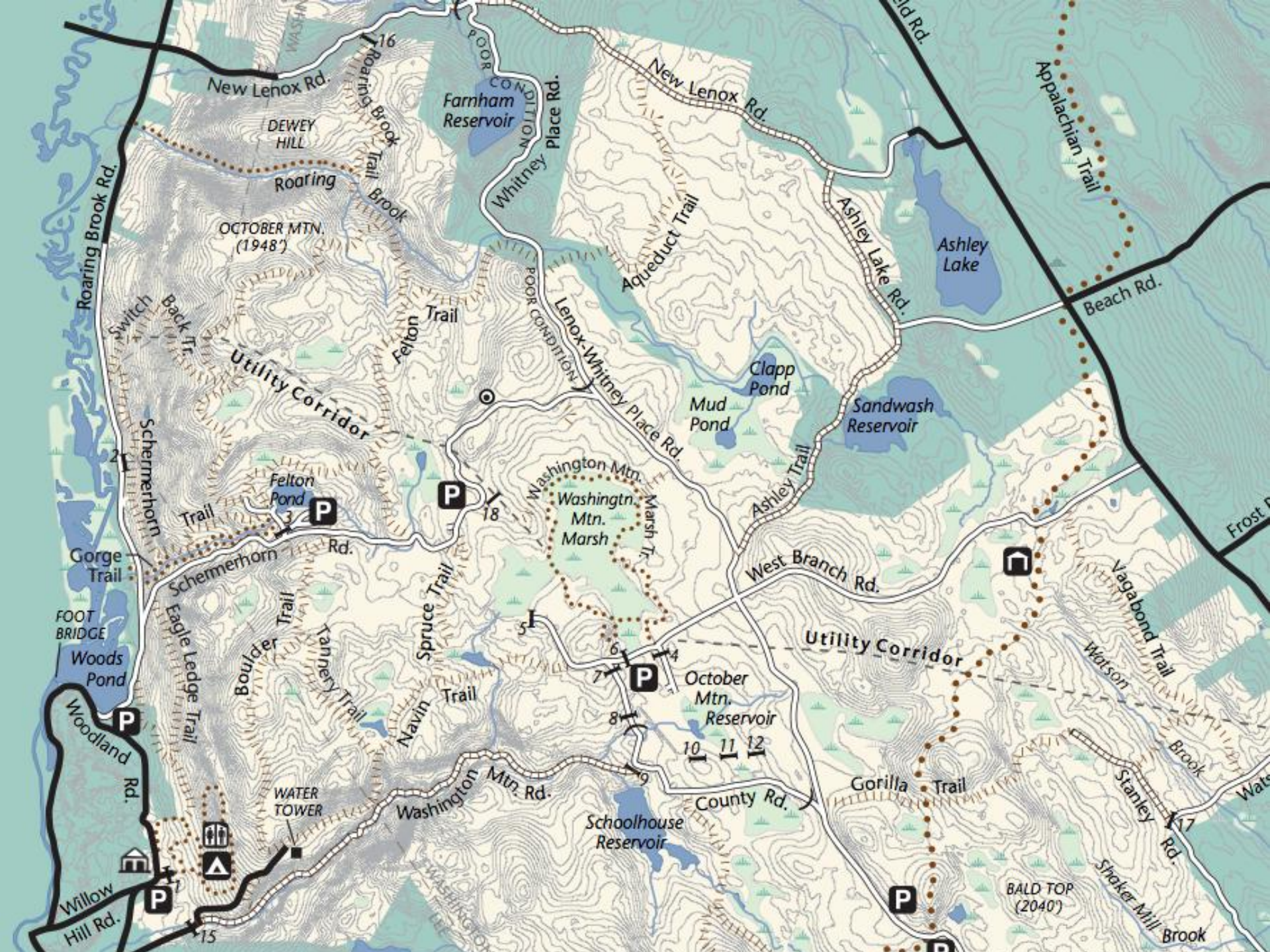


October Mountain State Forest Trail System

Trail Planning



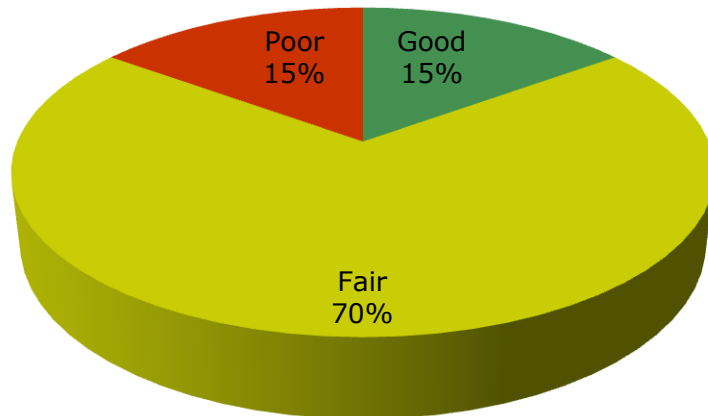




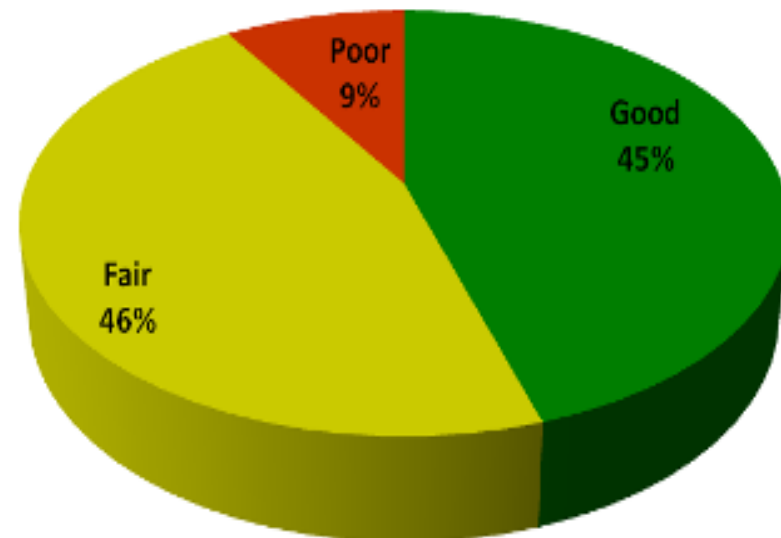
October Mountain State Forest Trail System

- 95 miles of authorized trail
- Over 20 miles of illegal / unauthorized trails

Trail Conditions - October Mt SF



Trail Conditions - DCR Statewide



October Mountain State Forest Trail System

Trail Conditions









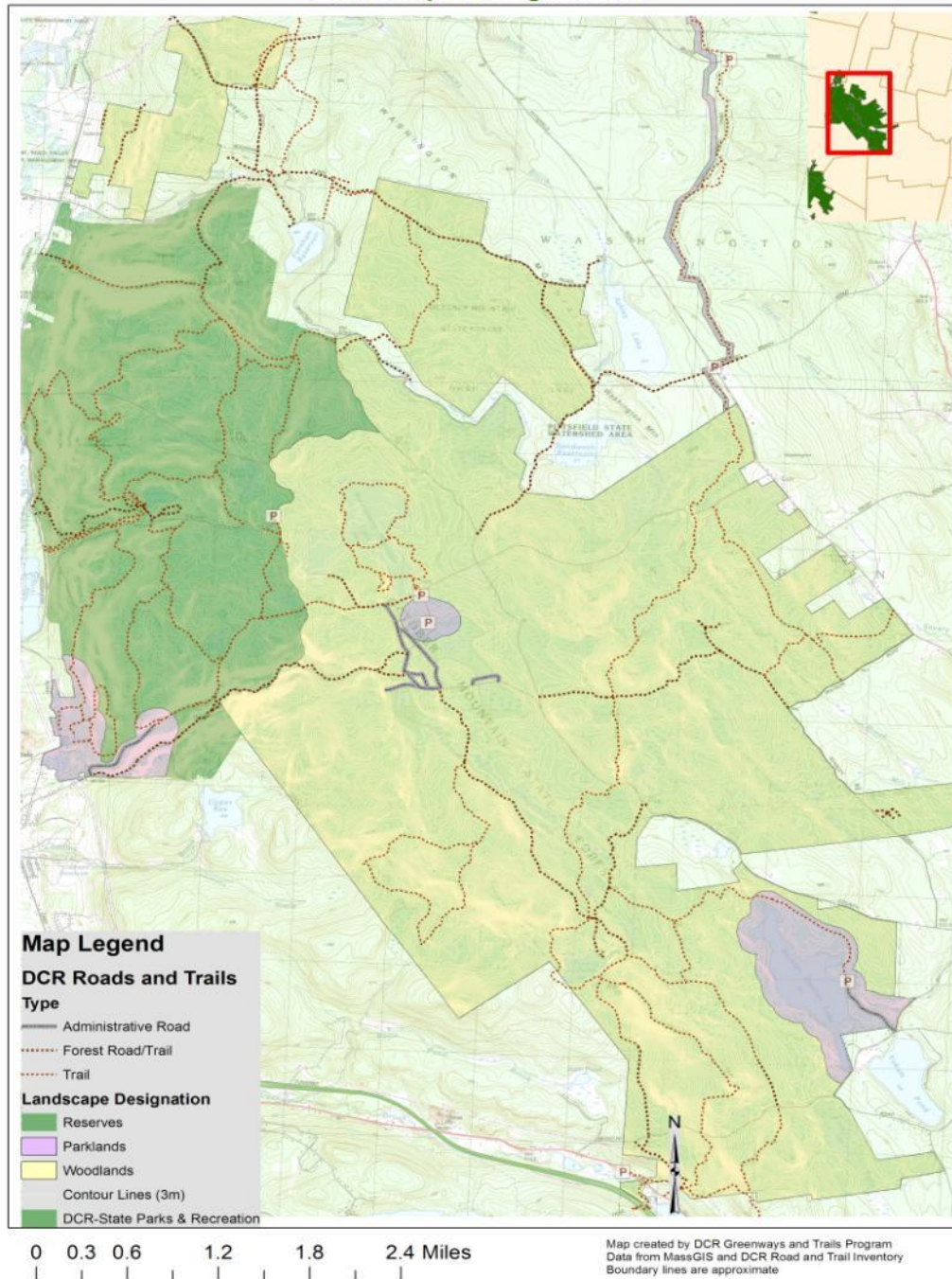






October Mountain State Forest Trail System

Landscape Designations



Leaving Only Footsteps? Think Again

By **CHRISTOPHER SOLOMON**

FEB. 13, 2015



All Trails and Uses Have Impacts

- Compact soils
- Trample vegetation
- Erosion and water quality impacts
- Wildlife disturbance

October Mt Resource Values

- Steep slopes
- Housatonic Watershed
- ACEC
- Reserve designation
- Wetland and marsh resources
- Rare plant and animal species

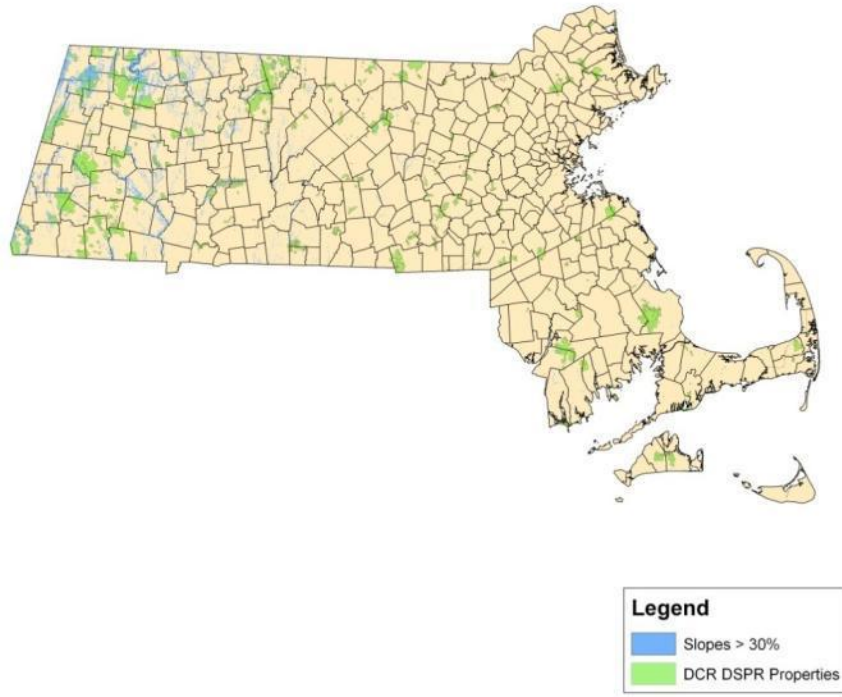
Trail Siting Criteria

From DCR's OHV Facility Assessment Policy - Fine Filter Criteria

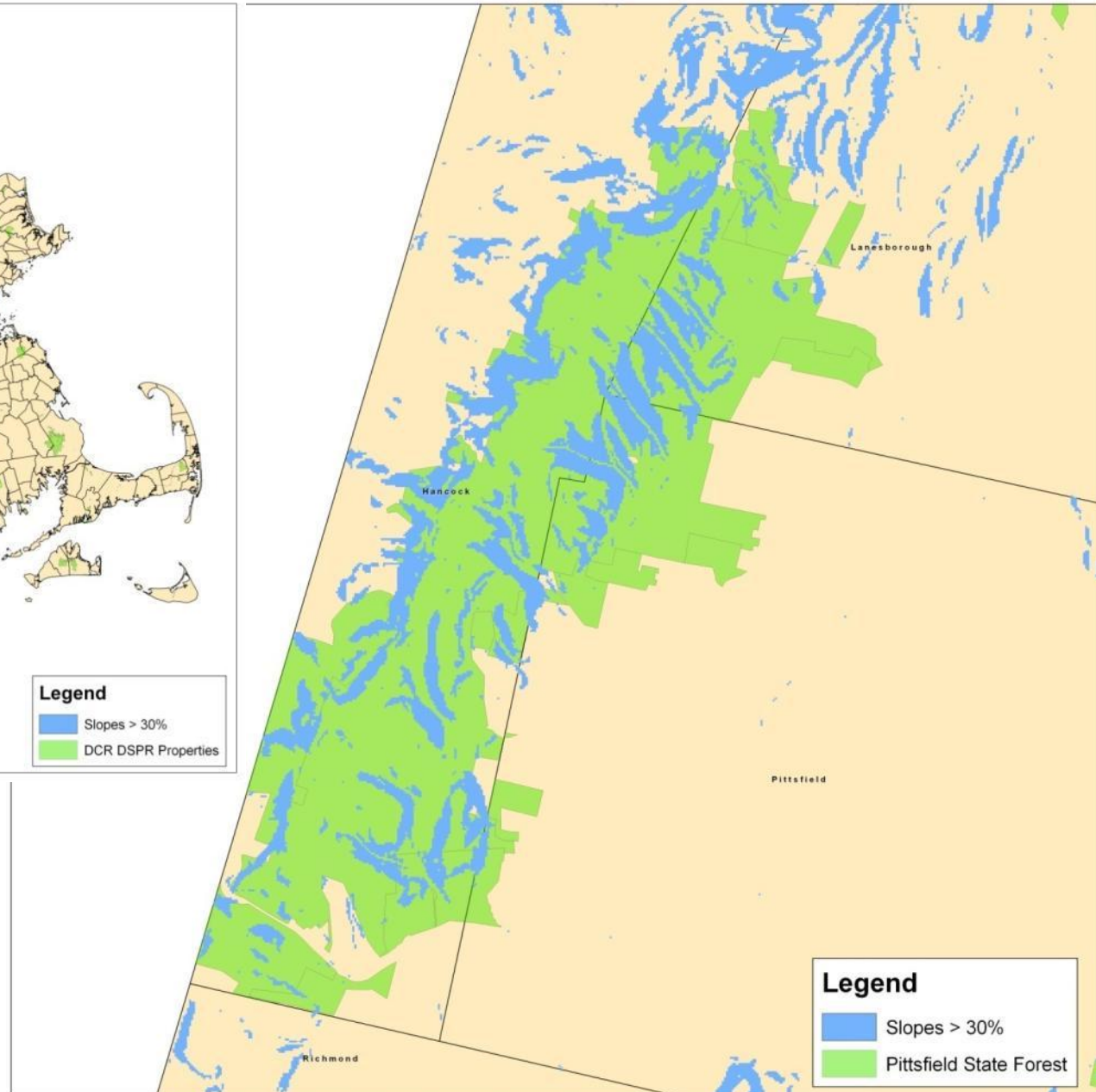
Trail Layout Should:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Comply with MESA | 8. Does not impact ACECs |
| 2. Avoids known locations of state listed endangered species, threatened species, species of special concern | 9. Comply with regulations for Wildlands |
| 3. Not impact Priority Natural Communities and Vernal Pools | 10. Not located on dams, dikes or spillways |
| 4. Does not impact Core Habitat | 11. Locate trails on existing development |
| 5. Comply with approved species management plans | 15. Avoids restricted soil types |
| 6. Comply with Watershed Protection Act | 16. Avoids trail grades > 30% |
| 7. Comply with DEP wellhead protection | 17. Avoids impacting unique geological features (not available) |
| 8. Comply with Wetlands Protection Act | 18. Avoids impacting cultural and historic resources, remove wetlands from analysis |
| 9. Comply with Zone 1 of DCR Land Stewardship Zoning | 19. Avoids impacting trails of national, state or regional significance that are identified in the MA Greenway Plan |
| 10. Comply with DCR regulations for Forest Reserves | |

16) The proposed trail layout avoids grades in excess of 30 %

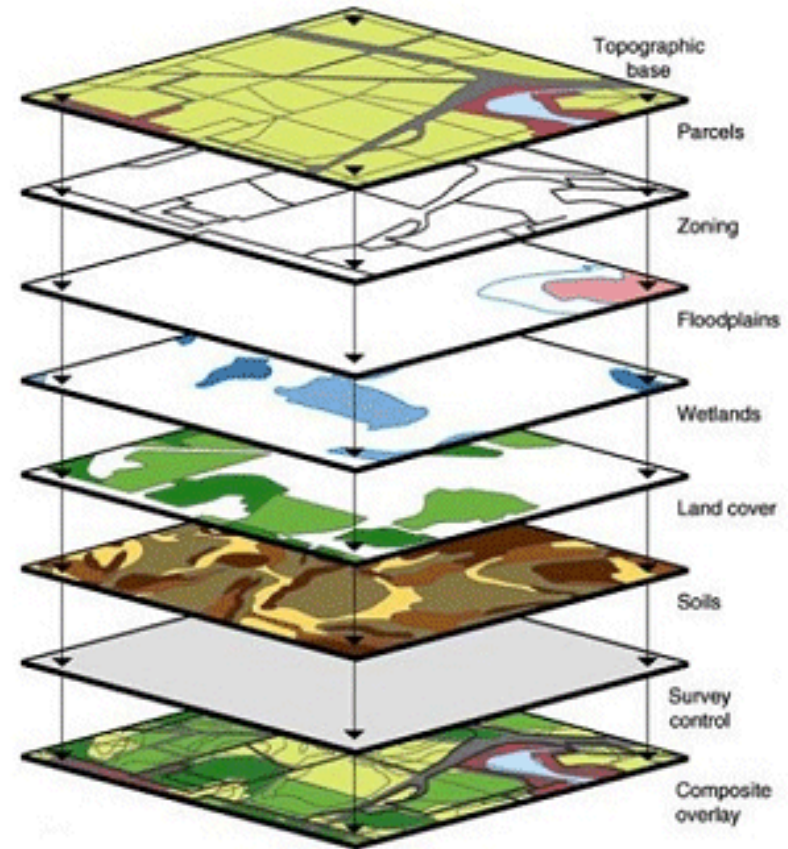


Model Values (2 is Poor for OHV Trails, 1 is Fair, 0 is Best)
In/out Slopes > 30%.....mask/0
(changed)



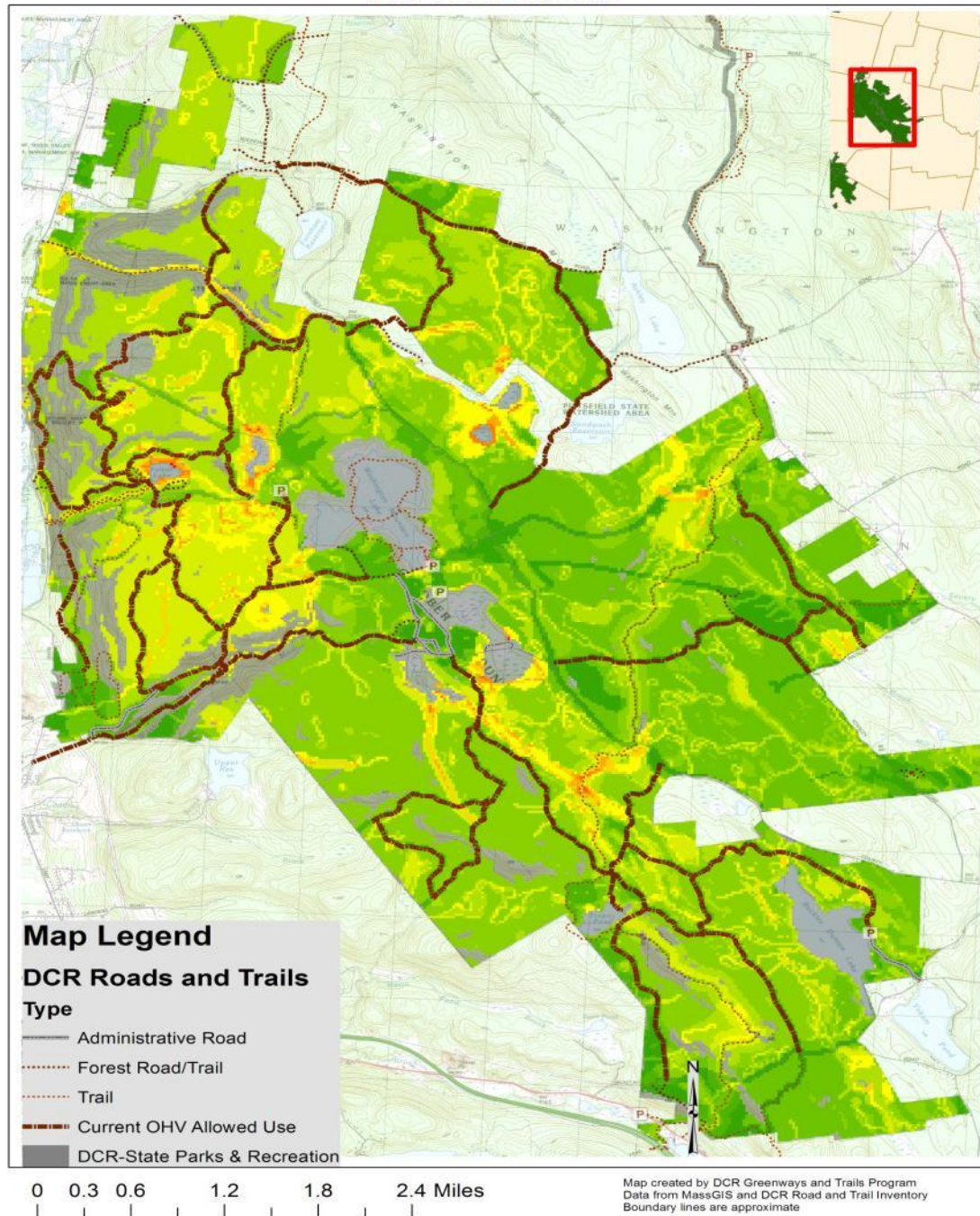
Process

1. Convert each dataset to a grid (raster)
2. Assign a numeric value to each cell (0, 1, 2 or 3)
3. Add up the values from each cell
4. Each final output cell gets a value based on the addition of each input cell
5. Mask out with 8 “No Go” grids
6. The total value for each cell can be from 0 (most appropriate for OHV trail siting) up to a maximum of 14 (least appropriate for OHV trail siting)



October Mountain State Forest Trail System

Fine Filter Results



Trails Planning Workshops

Identify Features and Experiences:

- **Scenic, Recreational and Cultural Features**
- **Key Recreational Experiences**
- **Important Access Points**
- **New Desired Connections or Opportunities**

Identify Constraints, Issues and Problems:

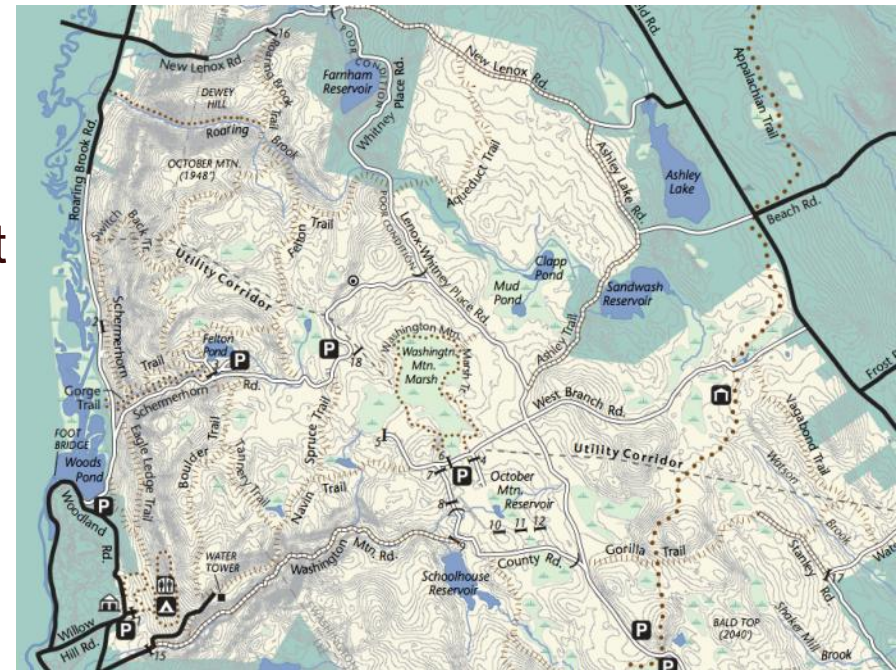
- **Pinch Points and Problem Areas**
- **Sensitive Areas to Avoid or Protect**
- **Redundant and Poor Condition Trails**



Trails Planning Workshops

Guidelines:

- Each group should select a facilitator and reporter
- There are no “bad” questions, ideas, or opinions
- Listen to each speaker (no side bar conversations)
- Be aware of “air time” and sharing it
- Stay on track
- Encourage everyone to participate
- Respect each other’s opinions!



Trails Planning Workshops

Keep in Mind:

- **Multi-Use Trail System – Balancing various motorized and non-motorized trail use**
- **Balancing New Trails and Closures (No Net Gain)**
- **Reserve and Woodland**





Additional Information

For more information:

Google "Massachusetts DCR Trail System Plan"

If you have additional comments or suggestions:

E-mail: paul.jahnige@state.ma.us

Write: 136 Damon Rd
Northampton, Ma 01060

Call: 413-586-8706 ext. 20